

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended): A water-soluble or water-dispersible polyurethane comprising the reaction product of

- A) at least one polyether polyol a1) having a average functionality of ≥ 3 and at least one urethane group-containing polyether polyol a2) having an average functionality of ≥ 4 ,
- B) at least one C₆-C₂₂ monoalcohol,
- C) at least one (cyclo)aliphatic and/or aromatic diisocyanate
- D) optionally at least one C₄-C₁₈ monoisocyanate, and
- E) optionally at least one polyisocyanate having an average functionality of > 2 ,

wherein the starting NCO/OH equivalent ratio is between 0.5:1 to 1.2:1 and the polyurethane has a softening point of from 10°C to 80°C.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented): The polyurethane of Claim 1, wherein the polyether polyol a1) has an average functionality of 3 or 4.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented): The polyurethane of Claim 1, wherein the polyether polyol a1) has an average functionality of 4 to 6.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented): The polyurethane of Claim 1, wherein component B) comprises a C₈-C₁₈ monoalcohol.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented): The polyurethane of Claim 1, wherein component C) comprises a (cyclo)aliphatic diisocyanate.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented): The polyurethane of Claim 1, wherein component D) comprises a C₈-C₁₄ monoisocyanate.

Claim 7. (Cancelled)

Claim 8. (Previously Presented): The polyurethane of Claim 1, wherein the urethane group-containing polyether polyol a2) is produced by a partial reaction of polyether polyol a1) with a diisocyanate.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented): The polyurethane of Claim 8, wherein the urethane group-containing polyether polyol a2) is produced by a partial reaction of polyether polyol a1) with a polyisocyanate having an average functionality of ≥ 2 .

10. (Currently Amended): A process for the production of the water-soluble or water-dispersible polyurethane of Claim 1, comprising reacting

- A) a mixture of at least one polyether polyol a1) having an average functionality of ≥ 3 and at least 1 urethane group-containing polyether polyol a2) having an average functionality of ≥ 4 ,
- B) at least one C_6 - C_{22} monoalcohol,
- C) at least one (cyclo)aliphatic and/or aromatic diisocyanate,
- D) optionally at least one C_4 - C_{18} monoisocyanate, and
- E) optionally at least one polyisocyanate having an average functionality of > 2

at a starting NCO/OH equivalent ratio of 0.5:1 to 1.2:1 and the polyurethane has a softening point of from 10°C to 80°C.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented): In a process for adjusting the flow properties of an aqueous paint system, adhesive and another aqueous formulation, the improvement comprising adding the polyurethane of Claim 1 thereto.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented): An aqueous paint system, adhesive and another aqueous formulation comprising the polyurethane of Claim 1.